

**Henrik Gottlieb and Jens Erik Mogensen (Editors).** *Dictionary Visions, Research and Practice. Selected Papers from the 12th International Symposium on Lexicography, Copenhagen 2004.* 2007, XI + 321 pp. Terminology and Lexicography Research and Practice. Volume 10. ISBN 978-90-272-2334-0. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins. Price: €105.

This volume contains a selection of papers read at the 12th International Symposium on Lexicography, held in Copenhagen from April 29 to May 1, 2004. Many topical issues are discussed, and even though the volume is arranged according to different lexicographical themes, there are also many common elements between the different papers. For example, sample articles selected for the empirical analyses on which the papers are based, often deal with the use of phraseology in different dictionaries, the finding of suitable translation equivalents in bilingual dictionaries, and the user-friendliness in dictionaries. In some cases, the participants have selected the same mainstream dictionaries for discussion, which means that these dictionaries are examined from different viewpoints, making the volume an interesting and useful reference work.

The six parts into which the articles in this collection have been classified are online lexicography, dictionary structure, phraseology in dictionaries, LSP lexicography, dictionaries and the user, and etymology, history and culture in lexicography. The issues raised are of great importance to lexicographers, especially those working in dictionary houses and lexicography units where comprehensive lexicographical works are published and compiled, such as multi-volume corpus-based monolingual dictionaries and comprehensive bilingual dictionaries. It is taken for granted that technology is part of the lexicographical process nowadays, and therefore the papers in this volume are most relevant.

The main speaker was Arne Zettersten who is also the 'founding father' of this symposium (see p. ix). His paper 'Glimpses of the Future of English-based Lexicography' (pp. 299-318), found in the last part of the volume, is the Otto Jespersen Memorial Lecture, dedicated to Otto Jespersen for his direct and indirect role in promoting lexicography. Zettersten contemplates on the future use of English in lexicography, and the nature of future lexicographical works. Since English is currently a lingua franca in many spheres of the modern world, including technology and the internet, Zettersten proceeds from the assumption that this will still be the case, even when other languages such as Chinese Mandarin, Spanish, Arabic and Hindi will gain in importance. Therefore, the question 'What kind of English or Englishes do we expect in the world tomorrow?' will have to be considered. He reflects on how quickly current electronic sources such as the Encarta products by Microsoft (e.g. the *Encarta World English Dictionary Online*) and *The Literary Encyclopedia* (released in 2001) will become outdated, and what possibilities the future might hold. Especially in the field of technology, the growth of vocabulary is accelerating all the time, and printed reference works cannot keep up with the pace of change. In addition, new technical devices are produced very quickly, which opens up exciting

possibilities for lexicography. For example, the contingency for users to have direct access to a corpus, or to update a personalised dictionary automatically, together with the rapid globalisation and the need to communicate easily and efficiently across linguistic and cultural borders, ensures a bright future for digital lexicography. In fact, since this paper was presented, another four years of technological advances have passed — apart from the advances in the technology of mobile phones since then, other devices are currently available for storing and using books and reference works. For example, one such a device, the Reader Digital Book by Sony (<http://www.sonystyle.com>), can be used as the 'perfect travel companion', since it is compact and lightweight, and has a battery life for reading 7 500 pages. It can hold about 160 eBooks, and has the possibility of optional memory cards. Electronic books, and by implication, electronic dictionaries, could be downloaded, and then read on the 6 inch display, which has a paper-like texture. The device, which makes searching and browsing possible, is compatible with formats such as Adobe PDF and Microsoft products. These types of technologies of course have far-reaching implications for the planning and publication of lexicographical works.

The second plenary lecture, also found in the last part of the volume, was given by Henning Bergenholtz and Sven Tarp, under the title 'Politik und Sprachpolitik in der Lexikographie' (= 'Politics and Language Politics in Lexicography') (pp. 217-240). They distinguish between (1) language politics in general, which include for example the promotion of a particular language, that may sometimes be conservative or purist, having the goal of promoting one as official language against other competing languages in the same geographical area, (2) specific language politics which deal with communication strategies and stylistic applications, in order that specific communication may take place, for example political correctness and the extent to which lexicographers use descriptive and/or prescriptive approaches, and (3) conscious and fixed selection or recommendation of specific grammatical constructions, words or word forms in a particular language and its implications for lexicographical activities such as corpus planning. This last-mentioned type of language politics undoubtedly is very important for lexicographers. Bergenholtz and Tarp (p. 219) claim that even a 'descriptive' approach can be conservative, and, by implication, misleading for users, referring to the 'prescriptive power of descriptive statements' (p. 238, note 1). Decisions taken in lexicography have language-political relevance, and therefore a political dimension. To illustrate this point, they analyse examples of Danish expressions and admit that in different languages, different language-political customs prevail.

The third plenary paper, found in the fifth part of the volume, was read by Herbert Ernst Wiegand. His contribution is entitled 'Neuere Aspekte einer Theorie und Typologie von Wörterbuchartikeln und ihre Praxisrelevanz' (= 'Newer Aspects of a Theory and Typology of Dictionary Articles and their Practical Relevance') (pp. 183-200). Wiegand takes an in-depth look at the term *Wörterbuchartikel* (= *dictionary article*), revisiting his own definition which was

given more than 20 years ago (Wiegand 1984). He does this because he discovered that there was no genus proximum such as the English hyperonym *basic reference unit* under which this German term can be accommodated. Over the years, Wiegand has refined his theory of dictionary structures to such an extent that he can now distinguish much more subtly and point out a much larger number of constituents in dictionary articles. After having investigated 1 200 dictionaries over the years, he introduces terminology for a semantic network into which the term *Wörterbuchartikel* can be assigned a place. By means of tree graphs, he makes distinctions to illustrate this terminology via typology criteria, such as classes of types of reference works, types of outer access structures, the nature of accessibility, the number of possible access paths, the nature of the access text element, the availability of a system of arranging entries, the nature of such a system, the presence or lack of standardised text condensation, the presence of item texts, the degree of text condensation, and the presentation of the propositional article centre. Wiegand concludes that a *dictionary article* is a lexicographical accessible entry which has the following three features: (1) it exhibits at least one access text element; (2) it is a constituent of the word list; and (3) it consists of accessible lexicographical data, by means of which the dictionary user can open up lexicographical information mentioned by the access text element about the subject matter of the reference work.

The first section of the volume is devoted to the topic of online lexicography. Cristina Gelpí looks at the 'Reliability of Online Bilingual Dictionaries' (pp. 1-12). Dictionary quality is determined by factors such as the authors of the online dictionary and the quality of their work, the satisfaction of the communicative needs of the users, i.e. the usability of the dictionary, the frequency of updating the dictionary, and the degree of digitisation and hypertextuality. Not all online dictionaries have been conceptualised as online products, with the result that they do not use the full potential of digital resources, such as interactiveness or incorporating image, sound and video material. The paper by Annette Klosa and Carolin Müller-Spitzer, 'Grammatische Angaben in *ellexiko* und ihre Modellierung' (= 'Grammatical Items in *ellexiko* and their Modelling') (pp. 13-37) deals with a specific dictionary project at the Institut für Deutsche Sprache (IDS) in Mannheim. This project aims at compiling an online database for the conducting of online research. This database which will be regularly updated and expanded, consists mainly of text excerpts collected from newspapers and magazines, representing text types such as travel reports, readers' letters, advertisements, extracts from novels, official texts, etc. The *ellexiko* database is part of the IDS corpus, the world's largest corpus for the German language, having almost two billion text words. *Ellexiko* is planned in such a way that it can offer the possibility to indicate frequency, as in corpus research. Not only will the part of speech of a lemma be given, but also its syntactical relationships, valency features or morphological forms. The advantages over traditional non-computerised lexicography are clear. By using the corpus, 'synchronic "empirical" grammatical research' (p. 20) can really be done

because such up-to-date language use is documented in it. One of the disadvantages is that if the corpus has gaps, *ellexiko* will also show these gaps. The modelling of *ellexiko* entails that the contents and layout have to be planned separately, as is usually the case with online publications. The authors illustrate the types of decisions to be made in the modelling of this database by means of examples. For instance, it is important that the data can be presented in different ways, and for different situations of use, but draw on the same lexicographical database. It is also important to take into account the different types of research possibilities which users may expect. Włodzimierz Sobkowiak's paper 'Innovative Phonetic Interfaces for Electronic Dictionaries' (pp. 39-52) also deals with technology-driven lexicography. His investigation concerns the possibilities that innovative visualisation techniques may have for the presentation of pronunciation in learners' electronic dictionaries of English as a foreign language (EFL). With new techniques such as animation, colour, hyperlinks, 3D views, and drag-and-drops, Sobkowiak argues for presentations of the pronunciation e.g. by means of a visualisation he calls a *graphic frame*. This graphic frame represents a two-dimensional 'neighbourhood slice' of a larger and more complex knowledge structure. For example, the pronunciation of *said* can be linked to the pronunciations of other concepts such as *sad*, *say*, *head*, *bed*, *Port Said*, *laid*, etc., in order to help foreign language learners distinguish between them, while showing the entire network of concepts, with some written comments and guidelines, on the computer screen, and presenting the possibility for sound clips for each of these concepts.

The second section of the volume deals with aspects of dictionary structure. Rufus Gouws's paper on 'Sublemmata or Main Lemmata: A Critical Look at the Presentation of Some Macrostructural Elements' (pp. 55-69) discusses some space-saving procedures in Afrikaans monolingual and English-Afrikaans bilingual dictionary articles which at times seem inconsistent because of the nesting. Consequently it is not always clear whether a particular simplex or compound is a main lemma or a sublemma. User needs are not always taken into account, and therefore in the case of idioms, users cannot easily determine whether they have to do with an idiom or whether it is a usage example. In bilingual dictionary articles, there is often no indication whether an idiom in the source language also has an equivalent idiom in the target language, and whether the style and register is the same in both languages. Gouws argues that this practice stems from a linguistic approach as opposed to a more pragmatic approach which takes the users' needs into account. The paper of Andrejs Veisbergs is entitled 'Semantic Aspects of Reversal of a Set of Bilingual Dictionaries' (pp. 71-79), dealing with the process of reversal of translation equivalents to enable lexicographers of a new Latvian-English dictionary to ascertain whether they have taken all the possible equivalents into account. Although dictionary reversal is a controversial practice, the results of this particular project described by Veisbergs did produce an increase in material. Naturally, some serious editing had to be done, and it had to be checked whether each

item was used frequently enough to justify its inclusion in the dictionary. Some of the problems encountered when reversing such a bilingual dictionary were: (1) explanatory translations presented for some language items where no translation equivalents are available become invalid; (2) differences in style and connotation, e.g. in the case of slang words, have to be considered; (3) even denotations can differ where 'semantically broad entries' have 'narrower, more concrete counterparts' (p. 77).

In the third section of the volume, phraseology in dictionaries is discussed. Ken Farø's paper treats 'Idiomatische Äquivalenzprobleme: Ein ikonoklastischer Zugang' (= 'Problems of Idiomatic Equivalence: An Iconoclastic Approach') (pp. 83-95). The problem of phraseological equivalence is also dealt with by Erla Hallsteinsdóttir in her paper 'A Bilingual Electronic Dictionary of Idioms' (pp. 97-106), which furthermore looks at the presentation of idioms. It seems that idioms still pose many problems in bilingual lexicography, and Hallsteinsdóttir investigates the potential and advantages of computerised approaches.

Section four of the volume focuses on LSP lexicography. The first paper by Patrick Leroyer is entitled 'Bringing Corporate Dictionary Design into Accord with Corporate Image' (pp. 110-117). According to him, corporate communication has specific needs which can only be satisfied by planning the messages they send out and documenting these messages in a dictionary for their specific corporate use. Communication data can be classified according to themes, and the in-house dictionaries should be able to assist users in finding the correct terms when documents in different genres have to be drawn up. It should also assist them in multilingual situations, e.g. by localising the message for the particular context. Staying within the corporate world, Sandro Nielsen and Lise Mourier deal with the 'Design of a Function-based Internet Accounting Dictionary' (pp. 119-135). The accounting dictionary under discussion is conceptualised for Danish users, and therefore the descriptive information is in Danish. The data types for instance include definitions and factual information about the lemma, and recommended usage, grammatical information, markers for varieties of English (such as British or American), equivalents, cross-references, synonyms and antonyms, and sources (including internet links), Danish collocations and phrases with English translations, etc. The authors claim that this unique dictionary meets the requirements of a state-of-the-art electronic bilingual internet LSP dictionary, and illustrate this by means of examples.

Dictionaries and the user is the topic of the fifth section of the volume. Here, Ilan J Kernerman asks the question: 'What's So Good or Bad about Advanced EFL Dictionaries?' (pp. 139-145). Kernerman proceeds from the point of view that today there are more non-native than native speakers of English — and this is growing steadily. These EFL speakers are not foreigners, but 'people around the world with their own languages, using English as part of their rapidly changing reality, and changing the English language therewith' (p. 140), making EFL a communication tool in the global network of commerce and

other activities. He looks at some examples from well-known EFL dictionaries such as the *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (LCODE, Summers (Ed.) 1995), and poses the question whether they still fulfil the real needs of their users. The following paper by Renata Szczepaniak, entitled 'Glimpses into Receptive Dictionary Use: Proficient Learners' Perspective' (pp. 147-164), also uses examples from the LCODE, but with a view to highly advanced learners of English. She too deals with idioms, and specifically the problems which can occur when the 'canonical' meaning of idioms are changed in texts (p. 150). One such example is 'tarring the whole of the Austrian public with the Haider brush is unfair'. Szczepaniak tries to determine how this type of change in meaning affects EFL readers' receptive abilities. In the last paper in this section, Geart van der Meer discusses 'The Learners' Dictionaries and Grammar' (pp. 165-181). He also analyzes dictionary articles from five major English learner's dictionaries, as regards the specific problems occurring with grammatical information. Native speakers of English would not normally need this type of information, but for EFL users, it is very important. For example, determining the difference between *some* and *any* is not always easy because EFL speakers do not know whether they denote an indefinite number or a definite amount. The so-called *he/she* problem is another example, as well as when and how to use *which* and *that* in relative clauses. Van der Meer analyses a number of these examples, and in each case gives some suggestions together with a sample dictionary article which could solve the problems.

Part 6 of the volume deals with etymology, history and culture in lexicography. Arleta Adamska-Salaciak's paper 'Lexicographers as Borrowers — The Importance of Being CAMP<sup>2</sup>' (pp. 203-215) discusses the 'lack of interlingual equivalence' by taking the word *camp* and all its meanings in English as an example. The term as such shows an 'anisomorphism' in Polish, since its translation equivalents *kamp* or *kampowy* are mainly used in more academic types of texts, whereas this is not the case in English. According to the author, the equivalents in existing bilingual English-Polish dictionaries are very imprecise. Andreas Gröger's paper, 'Revising German Etymologies in the *Oxford English Dictionary*' (pp. 241-257), gives an account of the procedures involved in the revision of the etymological information for the third edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. Lexicographers can learn much about the painstaking thoroughness of following up references and sources described here, and the discoveries resulting from this. 'Extracting Usage Information from 18th Century English-Danish and Danish-English Dictionaries' is the title of the paper by Marcin Overgaard Ptaszyński (pp. 259-276). He discusses several English-Danish dictionaries from the eighteenth century in which the first labels were used. Inconsistencies, misprints and mistranslations are pointed out, and he claims that some of the problems, such as labelling the difference between regional words and regional concepts, are still present today. Roda P. Roberts's paper entitled 'Dictionaries and Culture' (pp. 277-297) deals with two monolingual dictionaries of English, *Random House Webster's Unabridged* (1999) and *The*

*Oxford Canadian* (Barber (Ed.) 2001), and two bilingual English–French dictionaries, *Robert-Collins Senior* (Atkins et al. 1996) and *Oxford-Hachette* (Corréard and Grundy (Eds.) 2001). The items with geographical labels pertaining to national culture, superculture and subculture are analysed, as well as definitions, encyclopedic notes, and linguistic usage notes.

All in all, this volume makes interesting and useful reading for lexicographers working at different projects. It is certainly informative to discover what other lexicographers are engaged in, and how they solve their particular problems. Common elements, especially within the framework of computer-assisted and computerised lexicographical projects, can be found throughout the volume.

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Maria Smit  
Music Education  
Department of Music  
University of Stellenbosch  
Stellenbosch  
Republic of South Africa  
(msmit@sun.ac.za)